

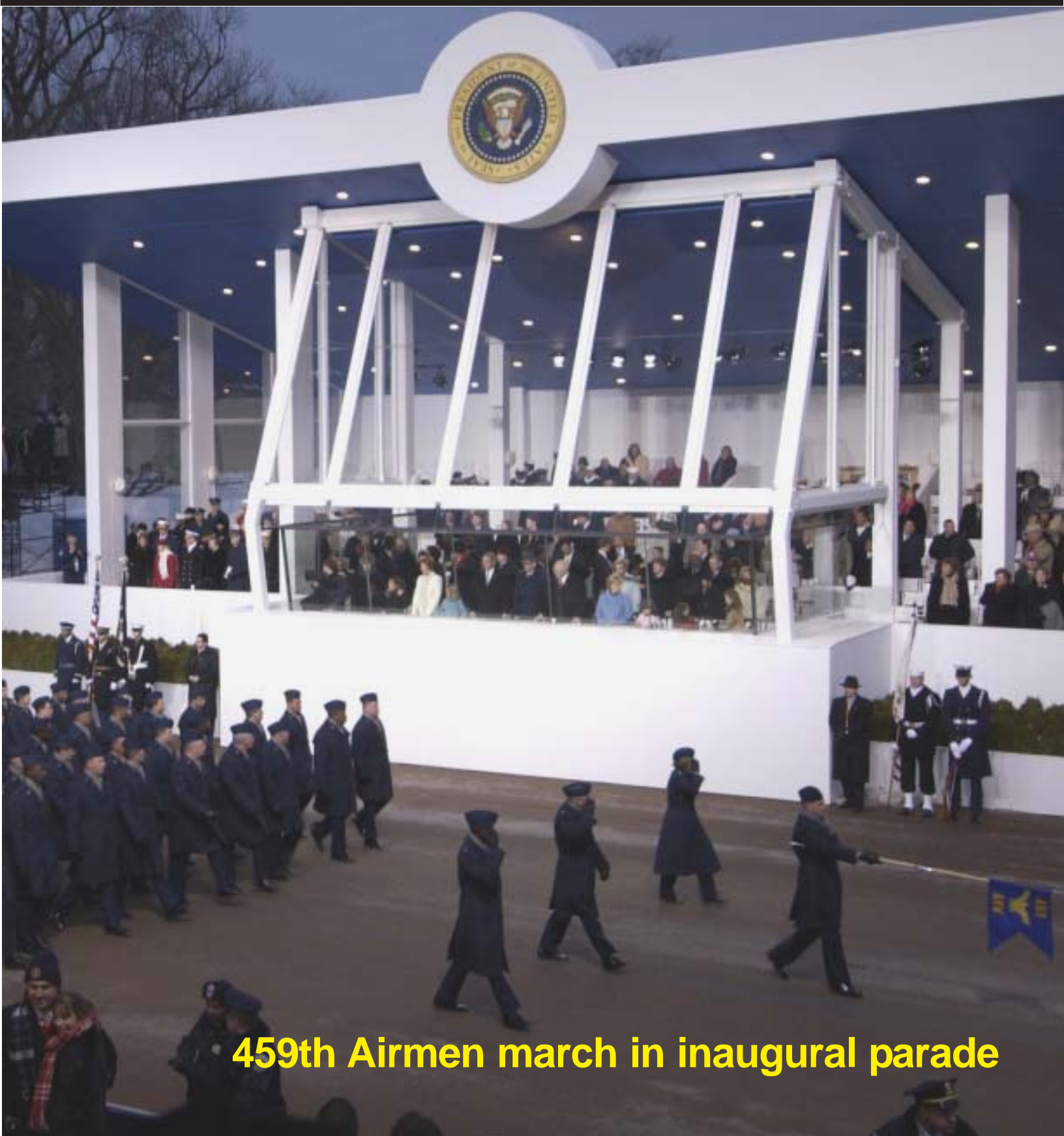
The Boomer



Vol. 50, No. 2

459th Air Refueling Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve, Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

February 2005



459th Airmen march in inaugural parade

The Boomer

Vol. 50 No. 2

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COMMENTARY

Wing earns sixth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

Commander's Call

Brig. Gen. Richard Severson
Commander, 459th Air Refueling Wing



BRAVO ... BRAVO ... BRAVO ... best describes my reaction to the recent message informing me that the 459th is the recipient of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, one of the most prestigious awards presented within the Air Force. This marks the sixth time this honor has been bestowed upon the wing during the past 50 years, and all of you can take great pride in this accomplishment, for it was truly a team effort.

This award reflects "exceptionally meritorious service" during the period May 1, 2002 through April 30, 2004 and comes as no surprise to me as your commander. One only has to reflect on that time period and recall what we were engaged in to realize that this recognition is certainly well deserved.

During this time, members of the 756th Airlift Squadron, 69th Aerial Port Squadron, and 459th Maintenance Group were extensively involved in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM supporting the "Atlantic Express" mission moving critical assets to numerous overseas installations. This operation was supported solely with volunteers.

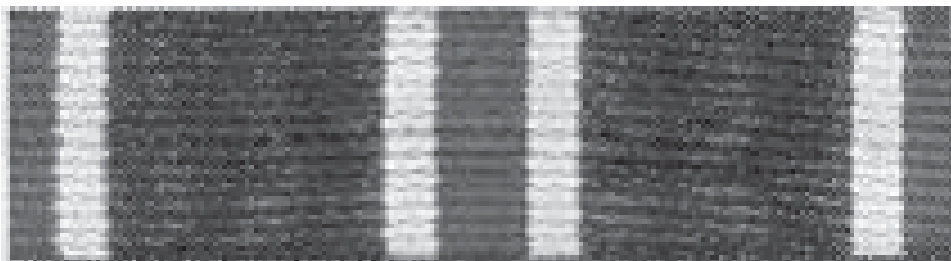
It's hard to believe that it was two years ago this month when activation orders dropped for many unit members and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM was underway. Aircrews, aeromedical teams, maintenance and support personnel, all deployed to various locations throughout the theater of operations to support the medical evacuation mission. Our crews flew hundreds of missions while providing time-critical evacuation of

injured personnel ... notably, the best care in the air!

We had support personnel scattered around the world as evidenced by civil engineers in Kuwait, security forces in Jordan, and airlift coordinators in Baghdad. Members of the 759th Logistics Readiness Flight were also activated and deployed to Ramstein Air Base, Germany. They were critical to United States Air Forces in Europe's effort in providing logistical support to over 30 operating locations and 240 combat aircraft in their area of responsibility. Also, 40 personnel from the Aerial Port Squadron were mobilized and sent to Dover AFB, Del., for eight months prior to deploying to Uzbekistan for their final four months where they were critical to the success of intra-theater airlift operations.

On the home front, nearly 100 members of the Aeromedical Staging Squadron operated a 100-bed Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility (CASF) here at Andrews supporting our wounded warriors. During their year of activation, they received and treated more than 13,000 injured troops evacuated from the frontlines ... a tremendous accomplishment by all involved.

What I have shared in this column are just a few of the many events that transpired during this challenging time in our history. Did I even mention the fact that we were fully engaged in a major aircraft conversion during this time? Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to all members of the wing ... the technicians, civilians, and reservists, as well as the family members who provided the day-to-day support that was absolutely critical to our wing's success over this two-year period. All of you can take great pride in knowing that you have been recognized for what you truly are ... **OUTSTANDING!**



MSAF: Our airlift is what makes us a global power

By Tech. Sgt. Carrie Bernard
62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, WASH.

— Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray highlighted the Air Force's airlift mission during a three-day visit at McChord Air Force Base, Jan. 12.

"We could not do what we do in the United States military and as a nation without our great airlifters," Chief Murray said. "Our airlift is what makes us a global power."

From moving people, equipment and supplies in and out of Iraq, to providing humanitarian relief for tsunami victims, it is absolutely apparent how important airlift is, he said. "I think sometimes in our Air Force we make it look too easy," he said. "It's not easy at all. But there is no doubt how great our Airmen are performing in the mission we have here."

Although the Air Force continues to excel, the chief said Air Force leaders understand the amount of stress that comes with that success. "As we look at the ops tempo we're under in today's Air Force — our deployment pace, the war going on, Airmen who deploy away from their subordinates, supervisors and first sergeants — it all adds up to a lot of stress," he said.

Those stressors make one-on-one leader-

ship even more important, Chief Murray said. "Face-to-face leadership is so critical," he said. "Especially in the world today, when it's so easy to get things done using items like e-mail and not get out among (the) people. "It's not about programs," the chief said. "It's about small group leadership and supporting one another — supervisor to sub-

ordinate, peers to peers—to keep stress under control."

Beyond focusing on Airmen taking care of Airmen, leaders are also constantly looking at what can be done to provide a balance in the expeditionary global force, he said.

One example of this is distributing stressors, like deployments equally, so not just one Air Force specialty or functional area is overextended.

"We are continuing to focus on the expedi-

tionary process that deploys people at 120 days at a time and returns them home in a 20-month cycle so they have more time at home, as well as a predictability of when they will deploy and when they will return," Chief Murray said. "We are also looking at distributing those deployments in a way that's more equitable to all Airmen and getting more Airmen into the deployment pool."



Illustration by Tech. Sgt. David B. Camp

With one eye on Airman and the other on the future of the force, the chief said he believes the Air Force's operations tempo will remain the same throughout 2005. "I don't think we're going to slow down any, that's for sure," he said. "We will continue to project air and space power globally, from the global war on terrorism to supporting natural disasters and anything else that may come our way."

Besides continuing operations, this year will also bring issues closer to home, the chief said. "We will prepare also for the announcement of base realignments and closures. That's something our Airmen need to stay attuned to. It's a process that's ongoing now and is something that will shape the future of the military." (Courtesy of Air Mobility Command News Service)

On the cover



Ninety Airmen from the 459 ARW came out before dawn to march in the 55th Presidential Inaugural Parade to honor our president. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Tracy DeMarco, 89th Communications Squadron Support Flight).

FLIGHTLINE

Question: What do you think is good wintertime fun?



Senior Airman Otis Willis, 459 SFS

"I like to go bobsledding in the Pocono's with my family."



Tech. Sgt. John Hadder, 459 AES

"I like to ski, snowboard, and go four-wheeling in the snow with friends and family."



Staff Sgt. Susan Mayer, 459 SFS

"I like to go on vacation to a warm place and get away from the cold."



Senior Airman Lakeasha Johnson, 459 MSF

"I like to sit at home, drink hot cocoa and watch everyone else play in the cold outdoors."



Senior Airman Jamie Watts, 69 APS

"I like to play in the snow with my nine-year-old son."

Beating the winter blahs

By Chaplain Maj. Greg Havrilak
Wing Chaplain

Each year as we enter the post-holiday season we are summarily confronted with a powerful visual phenomenon that may adversely affect our sense of well-being. This earthly phenomenon is called “darkness.” People who work during the day most likely depart their homes early in the morning when it is still dark outside and return home in the evening in the dark. The short days and long nights, coupled with a regressive “let down” following the long holiday season, may contribute to the winter blahs. Some call it “cabin fever.”

We’ve known for a long time that extended exposure to darkness can affect one’s psychology. The lack of bright sunlight through January and February makes some people feel bad. In a recent study at the University of Massachusetts, scientists announced that more people are hostile, irritable, angry, depressed and anxious this time of year than in summer. It would seem, therefore, the logical antithesis to continued darkness is bright light. According to Dr. Morton Harmatz, professor of psychology at Amherst, bright light acts as a natural antidepressant. In fact, light therapy is prescribed by some professionals for clinical depression.

We must be careful at this point to distinguish the winter blahs from a more serious malady often associated with this time of year: Seasonal Affective Disorder. According to the Suicide and Mental Health Association International, an estimated 10 percent of Americans are afflicted with SAD, which is a more serious type of depressive disorder.

You may be suffering from SAD if you’ve gone through two annual cycles with these symptoms. A case of the winter blahs is normal for people living in this region of North America. That’s why thousands head for the Caribbean this time of year where the sun is warm and plentiful. The idea is to get out and about, in order that heterogeneous stimulation – exercise, fresh air, new surroundings, meeting new people, and bright light – can charge your body, mind and soul. Scientists are not quite sure how it works, but clinical research suggests that light therapy may be one method to fight the blues.

In biblical times, Joshua prayed to the Lord for more daylight so his army could defeat the Amorites. “So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped until the nation avenged itself on its enemies ... The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day (Joshua 10:13).” This miracle of extended daylight was God’s response to Joshua’s faith and special prayer.

During our long, dark and cold days of winter, perhaps we can open ourselves to receive the light coming from above, not exclusively from the resplendent sun, but from the hand of God, who extends the brightness of his warmth, peace and love to anyone with an open heart. As the Lord told his followers, “While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of the light (Jn 12:36).”

As we anxiously await the arrival of spring, when the flowers appear, the grass is green again, and the birds return to trees full of glistening leaves, let us transition through the remaining weeks of winter with an openness to the light from above. Perhaps this light can help us beat the “winter blahs.”

From Airman to command chief

By Master Sgt. Shayne Sewell
Wing Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. Patti Hickman is the first female Command Chief in the history of the 459th! She was selected from a pool of candidates who competed for the position. “I am excited and honored to be the command chief,” said Hickman. “I always wanted to achieve this goal.”

Hickman had left the air reserve technician program to pursue a promotion in the 89th Airlift Wing which ultimately allowed her to make master sergeant and eventually led her to be eligible for a chief position. “When I was a staff sergeant I had a vision of becoming a command chief thanks to the role model I had,” said Hickman.

Command Chief Ed Miller played a huge role in Hickman’s career. “Chief Miller was a mentor to me as a staff sergeant. He truly cared about us and he was like a father figure. He made a big impression on me. I recall in 1992 during the preparation of President Clinton’s Inaugural Parade, to ensure we performed and looked our very best, he flew in “training instructor’s” from Lackland Air Force Base to run our ceremonial marching practices and had them return to march with us in the parade. They whipped us right into shape. Wow, were we impressed! When we returned that evening, Chief Miller was the first person we saw as we exited the bus. He was so proud of us. I

will never forget that memorable day. I was very proud to be a part of the 459th and represent the entire Air Force Reserve.”

Growing up through the ranks in the 459th and working for the 89th Airlift Wing during the week allows Chief Hickman to bridge the gap between active duty and the reserve.

“One of my main goals is to help everyone understand each others roles and opportunities if we work together.”

“I have four goals: Be visible; attend as many enlisted functions as possible; get out to the squadrons; and support and encourage the enlisted force in their personal and professional lives. If it’s important to them, it’s important to me.”



(Above) Chief Master Sgt. Patti Hickman.
(Below) Airman Hickman in 1980 in her basic training photo.

Honoring those who made a difference; those who endured inequalities

By 2nd Lt. LaVonne Johnson
446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

If it weren't for heroic black and white Americans who knocked down the walls of inequality and for the black Americans who pressed through the ugliness of racial discrimination, I wouldn't have the basic civil liberties I enjoy and cherish today. I thank them for their strength, courage, patience, knowledge and wisdom. All qualities I continue to build upon and pray for as I take my journey through life.

I don't know all of their names, I don't know all of their faces, and I don't know all of their deeds. But what I do know is these heroes helped shape this land of freedom for all races. I call this land my home – the United States of America.

It's my pleasure to honor Black History Month, a month set aside to remember and honor the achievements and contributions of black Americans. However, in order to honor these heroes we have to remind ourselves of this country's dark past.

Just like many black Americans, my family's history dates back to the days of slavery. My grandmother's father was born in slavery. The plantation he lived on and worked on is now a historic landmark in southern Virginia.

My grandmother told me she remembers sitting in the back of the bus and not being able to sit in restaurants. She said they had to get their food at a carry-out window. These injustices no longer happen because of people like Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man in Montgomery, Ala., on Dec. 1, 1955. Her arrest resulted in a mass boycott of city buses and brought the civil rights movement and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to national prominence.

Dr. King was instrumental in breaking the strong hold of racial segregation and bringing unprecedented visibility and support to the cause of racial equality.

Racial inequality plagued all sectors of society. Even the military was plagued by racial segregation. However, we were fortunate to have black men like the Tuskegee Airmen who helped pave the way for integration in the Air Force.

The black pilots were trained at the first all-black military aviation program at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, which was created in 1941. Their accomplishments during World War II didn't go unno-

ticed. The fighter pilots never lost a bomber they were escorting to enemy fire.

A retired master sergeant, who joined the Army Air Corps in 1946, told me that blacks and whites trained separate and had separate mess halls, and were even segregated on troop ships at the bottom of the hold. He said he was a part of a race riot that got the attention of Washington.

In 1948, President Harry Truman signed an executive order that integrated the armed forces. This sergeant said he had no racial problems after that. Kudos to the military for making changes before

society at large to enforce a fundamental and moral fact that all men are created equal. The civilian culture didn't begin to make changes until after the Brown v. Board of Education case in 1954 in which the Supreme Court of the United States declared racial segregation in public schools to be unconstitutional.

The last Civil Rights Act was signed in 1991 by President George Bush to strengthen existing civil rights laws and provide for damages in cases of intentional employment discrimination.

Laws alone can't change the mindset of individuals, but it's a move in the right direction.

I'm sure my heart felt appreciation and sincere gratitude is echoed by many for the master sergeant who retired after 27 years of active duty, the Tuskegee Airmen, Rosa Parks, Dr. King and many more who endured racial hardship and created an equitable path for the black race. As Maya Angelou said, "Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I am the dream and the hope of the slave. I rise, I rise, I rise."

In 2000, I enlisted in the Air Force Reserve. I had no racial obstacles to

struggle with -- only the obstacle course that challenged me physically. I not only survived basic training, but I survived the Academy of Military Science and earned my commission in 2004.

Now, I serve my country side by side with all skin colors, with all races. We live in the same neighborhoods and we eat at the same restaurants. We have multi-racial friendships, marriages and families. We are an integrated society.

Dr. King's dream can now be seen. He said, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed -- 'we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'" So, I honor those who came before me. I honor those who made a difference. I honor those who are still making a difference. I salute them all!



AFNEWS

Changes on the way for lodging program

By Maj. Steve Richards
459th Services Commander

Lodging has become one of the largest and most beneficial services offered to eligible reservists. The lodging program may seem simple to run but there is more to it than assigning rooms. It takes a combined effort from the commuting reservist, first sergeants, unit commanders, 459th Services Flight personnel and the 89th Services Squadron personnel for the process to run smoothly. In the past year, we have all worked together to identify ways to make the program work better. Through internal focus groups and meetings with the 89SVS, a joint agreement was developed to ensure that we deliver the best service.

Personnel Authorized Lodging

In order to make the process work more effectively, personnel authorized lodging will continue to be required to use the lodging telephone reservation system for the primary UTA dates. In addition, *reservation deadline dates* were created for personnel to make their reservations by.

For example, the deadline to make reservations for the March UTA is March 3. If reservations are not called in by that date, personnel must contact their first sergeant or commander, who then must contact the 459 SVF office by the "*last chance reservation*" date in order to have a reservation for the UTA. If personnel miss the "*last chance reservation*" date, they must provide a signed form 40A to the Gateway Inn at the time of check-in to have their lodging expenses paid for by the wing.

All personnel who have called in their reservations before the "*last chance reservation*" date will be able to find out where he/she will be lodged during the UTA by calling the Gateway Inn after the "*call ahead for lodging assignment*" date. For example, personnel can call after March 15 to get their lodging information for the March UTA.

RPA or Annual Tour (AT) in conjunction with the UTA

In our partnership with the 89 SVS, we both agreed the best way to provide an effective process in dealing with RPA or AT in conjunction with the UTA was to create a new procedure. This procedure will require the member to use the term "*straddle stay*" to identify when RPA or AT dates are combined with UTA dates.

This procedure will now require personnel to follow these steps to make their "*straddle stay*" reservations: Call the lodging reservation telephone system to reserve the primary UTA dates, then contact the Gateway Inn to reserve the RPA or AT dates.

When making the reservations mention that it is a "*straddle stay*." This will alert the reservations office to combine the two reservations (RPA or AT with UTA). The purpose is for personnel to stay

in the same room from the time that he/she checks-in to the time they checkout whether it is on base or in contract quarters. The "*straddle stay*" will also alert the front desk at the time of check-in that the reservist will be required to pay for his/her RPA or AT dates when they checkout.

Lodging guidelines and new procedures

AFI 34-246, Air Force Lodging Program, says that government lodging is authorized only for members outside the designated lodging commuting distance of the installation. The designated commuting distance is a 50-mile radius or a one-hour drive.

Primary UTA - Call the lodging reservation telephone system. Members can make their reservations for FY05 (through September 2005) when they call the lodging reservation telephone system to make their next reservation for the upcoming UTA.

Reschedule UTA - Contact the Gateway Inn reservations office. When personnel reschedule a UTA, a signed form 40A is required at check-in.

Straddle Stay (RPA or AT in conjunction with UTA) - Call the lodging reservation telephone system to reserve the primary UTA dates, then contact the Gateway Inn to reserve the RPA or AT dates. Mention that it is a "*straddle stay*" as this will lodge personnel in the same room from the time that he/she checks-in to the time they check-out

Cancel Lodging Reservations - Call the Gateway Inn to cancel all reservations.

Members are responsible to pay for any stays outside of the UTA as well as all sundries and services that are used (i.e., candy, chips, movies, phone calls, room damages) while in lodging. If these expenses are not paid at the time of checkout, their first sergeant and/or commander will be provided a report after the UTA that will detail what charges the member owes to the wing.

If members have problems with lodging, we recommend that the specifics of the problem be in writing. A letter or e-mail must be submitted to their first sergeant that will funnel all concerns to the 459 SVF who will resolve the problems.

If you have any questions or concerns, call the 459 SVF at (240) 857-2775. Once again our recommendation is that all personnel make their reservations as early as possible, but no later than the reservation deadline.

LODGING TELEPHONE NUMBERS

459th Lodging Telephone Reservation System:

Toll Free: 1-866-379-6323

Commercial: (240) 857-1111 / 0738

459th Services Flight: (240) 857-2775

Gateway Inn Reservation Office: (301) 981-4614

Gateway Inn Front Desk: (301) 981-9603

UTA	Your Reservation Deadline	Last Chance Reservation	Call Ahead for Lodging Assignment
Mar 19-20	Mar 3	Mar 9	Mar 15
Apr 23-24	Apr 7	Apr 13	Apr 19
May 14-15	Apr 28	May 4	May 10
Jun 25-26	Jun 9	Jun 15	Jun 21
Jul 30-31	Jul 14	Jul 20	Jul 26
Aug 27-28	Aug 11	Aug 17	Aug 23
Sep 24-25	Sep 8	Sep 14	Sep 20

Reservists switch to paperless LES

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFPN) — Jan. 1 was the deadline for Air Force reservists to start using myPay, the Web-based method for managing pay.

Airmen who did not sign up may find it difficult to know how much they are getting paid.

The Feb. 1 leave and earning statement is the last paper copy they will receive through the mail. The change for Air Force Reserve Command civilian employees depends on local bargaining obligations at their units, but eventually they also will use myPay. Under the myPay program, people view their LES online.

If they do not have access to the Internet at home or at work, they can contact their respective Reserve or civilian pay offices. To use their myPay account, reservists were supposed to activate their personal identification numbers by Dec. 31, officials said.

If reservists do not have a PIN or need a new one, they can obtain a temporary PIN through their Reserve pay office or the

local Air Force finance office, said Mike Bilbrey, AFRC's management and finance branch chief.

Another way to obtain a temporary PIN is by going to the myPay Web site at <https://mypay.dfas.mil> and selecting the "new pin" button. It may take 10 business days from the date of the request for mail delivery of the new PIN. In addition, reservists can ask for a new PIN by fax or mail.

They need to sign their request and give their full name, social security number, a copy of their military photo identification and a daytime telephone number. The fax number is (216) 522-5800 or DSN 580-5800.

The mailing address is: DFAS-Cleveland/Code PMMCCA, Attn: myPay, 1240 E. 9th Street, Cleveland OH 44199-2055. People should wait at least two business days before using their PIN if they got it by fax and four days if by mail. They will not receive confirmation that their PIN has changed. (Courtesy of AFRC News Service)

Military personnel flight has gone virtual

By Maj. Jeri Hansen
459th Mission Support Flight Commander

Folks like me may remember the "CBPO" acronym and the secondary term "CBPO run." CBPO was the acronym for the MPF and folks would tell their supervisors they were going on a CBPO run, which would actually be a run to the Commissary, BX, and Post Office. That was back in the day! Now, the MPF has many more ways to access services than showing up in person.

Virtual is really how many services are going. Have you ever used software to do your taxes, like Turbo Tax? The Air Force is working on software for virtual Military Personnel Flight that will take you through many personnel processes. Do you want to retire? Soon, vMPF will take you through the process step by step, ensure you get all relevant information and help you complete all the forms. It's kind of exciting for us to know that you'll be able to access this information from anywhere you can access the Internet. No more waiting in line.

Hopefully, you are familiar with the vMPF, since you logged on to complete your virtual record of emergency data. You need to up-

date your vRED anytime your information changes; vMPF will remind you to review your information annually. But, did you know that you can get almost all of the information in your MPF records from vMPF, except for your OPR/EPRs. vMPF will even tell you what decorations you have and show you a picture of how to put them on your uniform.

Another service option is the Air Force Contact Center, where someone is available to help you 24/7. I know I frequently wake up in the middle of the night with a burning personnel question, so having an expert available anytime is a load off my mind. The phone numbers are toll free (800) 616-3775; commercial: (210) 565-5000 and DSN 665-5000. At the Center's Web site (<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>) you can view FAQs, submit a question to personnel experts, provide feedback, and check your personal folder. More changes to the MPF are coming; who knows what we'll look like in five years. Sometimes changes are uncomfortable at first, but so far the feedback to the increased access to individual personnel data has been very positive. If you have any questions about this article, please e-mail Maj. Jeri Hansen at jeri.hansen2@andrews.af.mil or call 240-857-5257.

March 2005 Family Support Day Saturday, March 19

Spouse Orientation - The Family Support Office invites all spouses of 459 ARW members to join us for a day tailored just for them.

We will provide spouses with an inside look at the mission of the 459th ARW, offer a few briefings on military entitlements, a luncheon and an aircraft tour.

Kids Warrior Day - We also would like to invite the children of 459 ARW members to a day of fun with an inside

peek of what mom/dad goes through for a deployment.

The junior members will experience a mobility processing line, receive an aircraft tour, and get an up close look at a fire engine, plus attend other fun activities. All kids that attend will receive a T-shirt and dog tags. The day will conclude with a pizza party. We request that children be over the age of five.

Advanced reservations are required when making a reservation. Please provide the

names and ages of your children.

Reservations will be accepted, for both the spouse orientation and the kids day, during the January and February UTA's and may be made by calling 240-857-7048 or toll-free 877-252-3758 or you may e-mail Jennifer.Hutcherson@andrews.af.mil or matthew.brown4@andrews.af.mil.

We are also recruiting for members to help out, so if you love to work with kids, please use the above information to contact us.

459th Airmen represent AFRC in inaugural parade

By 1st Lt. Timothy Smith
Wing Public Affairs

Members of the 459th Air Refueling Wing have participated in presidential inaugural parades for many years, but January was the first time the members have participated as a team as the 459th Air Refueling Wing Ceremonial Marching Unit in an inaugural parade.

This flight of 90 reservists, led by Maj. Stephen Higgins, 759th Logistics Readiness Flight, represented the Air Force Reserve Command in the 2005 Presidential Inaugural Parade for President George W. Bush. "It was an honor to take part in an historical event such as the inaugural parade," said Staff Sgt. April Hutson, 459th Communications Flight. "As we marched down the street toward the reviewing stand where the president stood, bystanders would cheer for the Air Force and that was such a great feeling to hear their support."

Support, camaraderie and a patriotic spirit were keys to the success of the wing's performance in the parade. But it wasn't just a 459th effort. Reservists from as far as Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., and McGuire AFB, N.J., helped to fill out the required 90 for the ceremonial marching flight. "I would have never expected to have the honor to come to D.C., march for a president, march for our country, and for those in the military," said Senior Airman Alexis Giordano, 514th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Others that marched also spoke of the honor of the occasion, noting that even though it's purely voluntary to march in the parade, it's still an opportunity not available to everyone. "I figured I'll get to D.C. and participate in something that a lot of people won't be able to," said Senior Airman Elliot Lopez, 514th AMXS. "It's pretty nerve racking because you don't want to mess up."

"The most difficult thing was relearning those parts of marching that you forget," said Hutson. Not only was practice early in the morning, it was also cold. But it was one of those necessary things that needed to be done to make sure the Air Force Reserve portion of the inaugural parade was outstanding. "I was impressed that everyone was able to stand the cold," said Lopez. "I was impressed that everyone was able to get it together ... us, the Marines and all." "It was good to do a dry run through the actual route to see what to expect," said Hutson. "It went smoothly."

Several members of the marching unit had to put on their marching boots a few months earlier for President Ronald Reagan's funeral. That was the first time the ceremonial marching unit was called into action. It ended up being a primer for Bush's inaugural parade. It gave many first timers a chance to see what it's like to perform for an enormous occasion.

It also gave the Air Force Reserve's inaugural parade planners a chance to get acclimated with what it takes to put on such a presentation. "Many of the checklists, in-processing procedures, briefings and communication channels executed for the inaugural parade came from lessons learned during the funeral," said Maj. William Short, 459th Operational Plans.

Maj. Short along with Lt. Col. (Ret.) Myles Day and Capt. Daniel Schneider, all from 459th Operational Plans, planned the Air Force Reserve portion of the parade. Maj. Short was the Air Force Reserve project officer. "We started in September, meeting on an almost weekly basis."

Short said the Presidential Inaugural Committee actually began planning two years before the big day.

There was a tremendous amount of planning involving transportation, collegiate and high school participation, all branches of the armed services and more.

However, the inaugural parade was not the easiest walk in the park for the troops. It was again, like practice, a cold day and an early morning venture. "I knew it wouldn't be good marching weather," said Senior Master Sgt. Francisco Rendon, 514th AMXS. "But I thought it would be an opportunity of a lifetime."

It was also an all day affair that began at 6 a.m. and ended around 6 p.m. The Airman had to be loaded with energy and enthusiasm. They had to show up dressed, pressed and shined. They were herded onto buses to travel from Andrews AFB to the National Mall, and then they had to wait for a couple hours before lining up to perform.

They were lined up between the Air National Guard and a high school band. They marched before thousands in attendance and simultaneously marched before millions who watched from home. "I've been calling people I haven't spoken to in a while and I'm like 'Hey! I'm going to be on TV,'" said Lopez.

Many shared Lopez's level of excitement, and some thought of their participation as a special opportunity. Hutson thought of it as particularly memorable because they performed in front of the president. "In addition to people cheering for us, I will always remember walking past (the reviewing stand) and seeing our commander in chief and seeing him wave at us as we saluted him."

Giordano said she didn't think an opportunity like this would ever cross her path. "I never thought an average Airman could march for the president. My chief brought it up to me and I was like 'Wow! I never imagined this would happen!'" For Rendon, the opportunity was a lot more sentimental. "I feel that this is the least I can do for the people overseas. In my mind, I'm doing it for them."

Marching further ahead as the Air Force Reserve service component staff leader was, Col. Michael Branham, 459th Air Refueling Wing Vice Commander.



President George W. Bush and Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff, salute the Air Force contingent during the 55th Presidential Inaugural parade, Jan. 20. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech Sgt. Tracy DeMarco, 89th Communications Squadron Support Flight).

A lesson learned: Refining aerial refueling

By Capt. Patrick Maloney
Wing Public Affairs

This is the second in a series of five stories highlighting the history of flight and air refueling.

The flight of the “Question Mark” appeared to foreshadow the future of military aviation. Combat aircraft would soon use aerial refueling to extend their range and payload capabilities, making them the war-winning weapons envisioned by the air power theorists of the day. However, in October 1929, the stock market crashed and the United States was thrown into the Great Depression. For the fledgling Air Corps, already starving for funds, this was a devastating blow. There was simply no money available to launch an effort to refine aerial refueling. Further development of it would have to wait.

As the United States entered World War II, the “bomber general’s” and the planners at the Air Corps Tactical School began planning the bomber offensive to crush Germany and Japan’s ability to wage war.

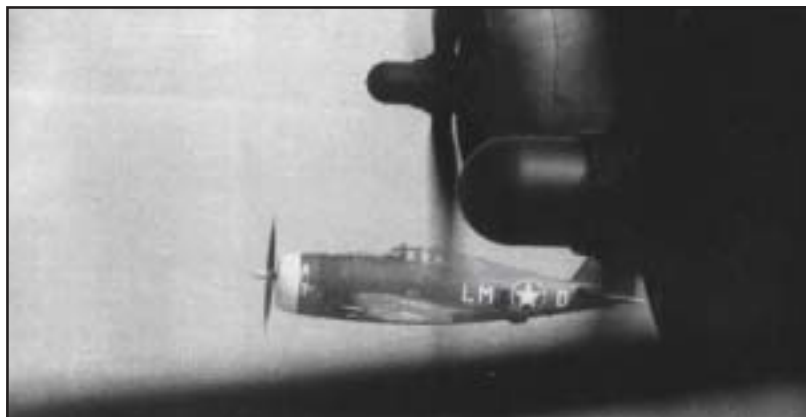
The objective, in simple terms, was to use daylight precision bombing to destroy enemy centers of gravity (factories, oil fields, command centers, etc). To do so, long-range bombers would carry heavy payloads from bases secure from enemy attack. In the original concept, bombers would be fully capable of defending themselves without fighter escort. Therefore, aerial refueling was not required.

However, enemy fighter resistance was fierce. B-17s and B-24s, heavily armed with .50-caliber machine guns, pounded away at attacking German fighters. Despite this formidable defense, the numbers of German fighters proved overwhelming and hundreds of bombers, and thousands, of Airmen were lost. Fighter escorts were desperately needed, but they just didn’t have the range needed to properly protect the bombers.

The P-38s used for escort duty had to return to Britain almost as soon as the bombers reached mainland Europe. After the fighters left due to low fuel states, the bombers were on their own. Losses were so bad (averaging 10 percent of the attacking force according to the Air Force historical foundation) that American bombing missions were suspended in the fall of 1943. No fighter in the inventory had the “legs” to escort the bombers all the way.

Missions over Germany did not resume until the P-51 Mustang and P-47 Thunderbolt entered the fray in 1944. If aerial refueling had been available at the onset of the bomber offensive, the P-38s and Spitfires would have been able to escort the bombers all the way, keeping the bomber offensive on track and saving the lives of thousands of Airmen.

By the end of the war, according to official U.S. Army Air Force records, over 60,000 Airmen lost their lives in the aerial battles over Europe, more than the Navy and Marine Corps combined! This lesson was not lost on the man who led the bomber offensive in both the Pacific and European theatres during World War II. The lesson was crystal clear. Fuel is the lifeblood of aerial operations. Without it, the mission, and those charged with



A P-47 Thunderbolt of the 57th Fighter Group on a bomber escort mission over Antwerp, Belgium. (U.S. Air Force museum photo)

carrying it out, are put at great risk.

In 1948, Gen. Curtis LeMay took command of the Strategic Air Command. During World War II, LeMay had commanded both the 3rd Bombardment Division in England and the 20th Bomber Command in the Pacific. He had firsthand experience in long-range bomber operations and made aerial refueling a top priority.

LeMay realized that the jet bombers now entering the inventory burned fuel at a much faster rate than the piston bombers of World War II. They were also being called upon to fly farther, from the United States to the Soviet Union. Gen. LeMay pressed the Air Force to develop an efficient aerial system that would give bombers and fighters true “global reach.” Luckily, the Boeing company was already hard at work on the problem.

Boeing had developed the flying boom which was essentially a long pipe fitted with tiny wings. The boom would be “flown” to the receiver and inserted into a “connector.” This system not only allowed jet aircraft to refuel at relatively high speeds and altitudes, but it also increased the amount of fuel flow per minute, up to six times faster than the early hose methods.

At the same time, “single point refueling” was developed. This allowed all of an aircraft’s fuel tanks to be refueled from one connection without the need for multiple nozzles. During the early 1950s, the U.S. Air Force began converting B-29s and C-97s into tankers and re-designating them and the KB-29 and KC-97 respectively. These aircraft were successful and had long careers as part of the Air Force inventory.

However, the increasing demands of missions made it necessary to look for a more capable aircraft designed from the onset as a tanker. This led to the procurement of the KC-135 Stratotanker.

According to Boeing, the U.S. Air Force purchased its first KC-135A in 1954 and it arrived at Castle Air Force Base, Calif., in 1957. This was the first of what would eventually be a total of 732 Stratotankers delivered to the Air Force.

According to Air Force records, approximately 530 KC-135s remain in service with the Air Force in active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command. The KC-135 was the answer to Gen. LeMay’s prayers. It became the backbone of the Air Force tanker fleet and has taken part in almost every major military operation since its introduction in 1957.

Communications Flight delivers computers to kids

Story and photo by 1st. Lt. Tim Smith
Wing Public Affairs

The 459th Communications Flight is a wonderful example that the military is about more than planes, tanks and ships. It is also a shining example that humanitarian efforts are not just for lands abroad. The members of the flight have a mission to help those who are currently without means to step into the computer age, by donating computer equipment to local needy organizations.

"Since 2000, we've probably given out about 600 computers," said Cinderella Jones, 459th Communications Flight computer specialist. "We don't take anything to the Defense and Reutilization and Marketing Office anymore."

Jones runs this charitable program for the wing. She said the DRMO will either sell or destroy the computers, so she wanted to have a hand in making sure they would be placed in the hands of those people who need them the most.

"When I do that, I feel really good that I'm able to help somebody," said Jones. "It's an enjoyable feeling to know that my computers will go from here and help my babies."

Computers have gone from here to churches, colleges and schools. "I'm grateful," said Barbara Carter, technology coordinator for Apple Grove Elementary School in Fort Washington. "When I came here



Master Sgt. Bernard Griggs, 459th Communications Flight and LaVerne Wilson, assistant principal for Apple Grove Elementary School, inspect a cart filled with computers to make sure the cart is stable. Griggs delivered the used computers to the school on Jan. 27th.



LaVerne Wilson, assistant principal, and Barbara Carter, technology coordinator for Apple Grove Elementary School, assist Master Sgt. Bernard Griggs, 459th Communications Flight, with a cart full of monitors. The wing donated the used monitors and computers to the school through the DoD Computers for Learning Program.

as a technology coordinator, they had nothing. I was surprised that the kids didn't have functioning computers hooked up to the Internet, where kids can pull up valuable information."

Margaret Smith, Apple Grove's principal, said they can certainly use more computers. Carter said the wing's donation will give them two computers per classroom. She said five computers per classroom are what most schools have.

However, the wing's used computers aren't given out at random. They're given to organizations registered with the Department of Defense Computers for Learning Program. It lists schools and educational nonprofit organizations that are eligible and have registered for the donations. "We have a memo of agreement with DRMO at Fort Meade," said Jones. "So instead of turning them into excess, I can give them to schools."

"I'd like to give her (Jones) a special thanks because she's made things so much easier," said Carter. "Now we feel just as important as the other schools with the technology. We'd also like to thank Mr. Griggs ... he's a school hero."

Master Sgt. Bernard Griggs, 459th Communications Flight, said he was glad he could help. He delivered the computers to Apple Grove. It was not just something he did through the unit; he has a personal tie to the school through his church. "I knew Mr. Griggs from church," said Carter. "And he is very close to my sister and I. I asked him if he would come by and help us set up the computers that were here, and he saw our need. He said he would talk to someone at Andrews."

When Griggs came back to Andrews to see if there was something that could be done, it turned out Apple Grove Elementary was already listed on the DoD Computers for Learning Program. The students there were just waiting for someone like Griggs to notice.

Officials release updated transformation flight plan

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Air Staff officials recently updated the U.S. Air Force Transformation Flight Plan, which spells out the transformation strategy of the Air Force.

According to the secretary of defense's transformation planning guidance, officials in the office of force transformation use the flight plan and the transformation roadmaps from the services and Joint Forces Command to conduct an appraisal of transformation progress. Issues and concerns raised by this appraisal are used to form the secretary's guidance to the services when building their budgets.

"Transformation is critical to give the warfighter more capabilities to address the challenges of the new security environment," said Col. Gail Wojtowicz, chief of the future concepts and transformation division.

"The U.S. military has come a long way since the days of the Cold War when it was expecting to face a Warsaw Pact invasion from large, heavily armed forces or when we sat on alert awaiting an inbound nuclear strike from the Soviet Union," Colonel Wojtowicz said.

"We now must face new, largely non-state adversaries such as terrorists and insurgents who do not play by the same rules as traditional nation states or conventional militaries. In addition, even our potential future state adversaries know they cannot compete with us in traditional combat operations and are rapidly devising new ways to challenge us, both at home and abroad. Transformation is essential so that our combatant commanders can effectively address these new challenges," she said.

For its part, the Air Force is pursuing transformation to address these challenges in various areas, officials said.

For example, it is improving its capabilities to deny sanctuary to adversaries anywhere through persistent global surveillance com-

bined with the ability to quickly strike them anywhere on the globe before they can hide, officials said.

The Air Force is also developing new non-lethal weapons that will give commanders the option to affect targets without having to blow them up, officials said.

The Air Force is also pursuing machine-to-machine integration of manned, space and ground systems so the right information gets to the right place at the right time. When combined with precision weapons, effective information operations and advanced intel-

ers. This has worked splendidly in recent operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, officials said.

In addition, the new threats to homeland security, so vividly demonstrated during the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, require dramatically improved coordination between the military and nonmilitary agencies and organizations. The Air Force, along with the rest of the department of defense, is working hard to transform in these areas as well, officials said.

But transformation is far more than new high-technology capabilities and improved coordination, officials said. As emphasized in the flight plan, the new security environment also requires changes in the concepts of fighting, organizing, training and overall business.

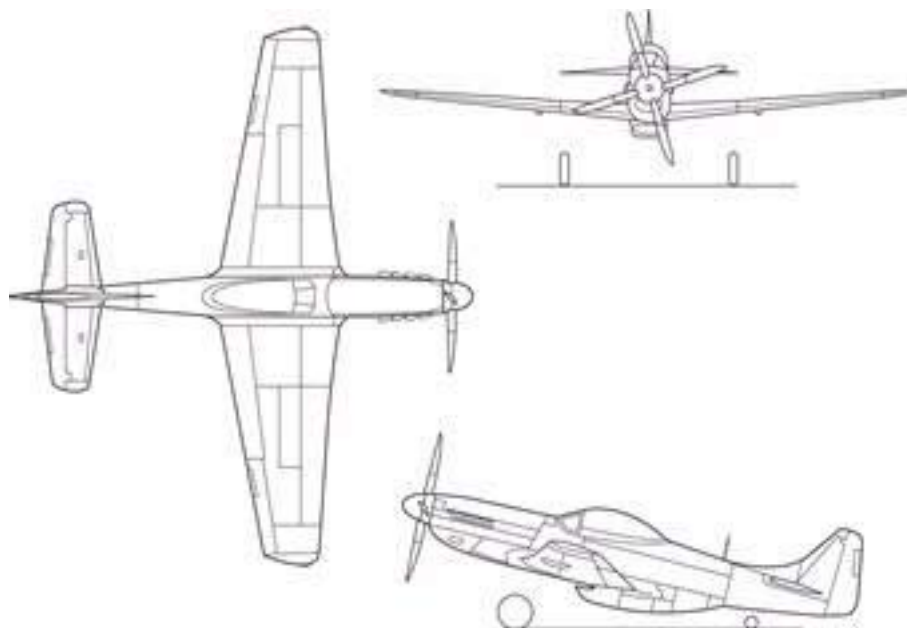
In the past, the Air Force often developed new capabilities then determined how best to use them. Now, through the concept of operations and capabilities review and risk assessment process, Air Force officials said they methodically figure out what capabilities Airmen actually need

to get the job done, then focus on gaps in capabilities and funding.

The Future Total Force initiative is dramatically transforming how the Air Force is organized to enable much closer integration and coordination between active-duty, Reserve and Guard units, officials said. This is critical as aircraft inventories and future defense budgets continue to shrink, because it will allow the Air Force to man equipment at higher ratios and exploit their increased capabilities at a lower cost, officials said.

"The (plan) digs down into each of these and many other areas in detail and shows how they link together to present a logical picture of how the Air Force plans to support warfighters and joint commanders," Colonel Wojtowicz said.

The plan is available online at www.af.mil/library or at www.oft.osd.mil.



ligence capabilities, this networked capability will revolutionize the ability of U.S. forces to conduct operations by helping commanders to see, think and act much faster and more effectively than adversaries while blinding their ability to see, think or act at all, officials said.

Enhanced joint, coalition and interagency operations are also an essential piece of transformation, officials said. For example, because U.S. ground forces must now be more agile, light and rapidly deployable, they depend far more on rapid, precise combat air support than in the past.

The Air Force has worked closely with the Army and Marine Corps to achieve this by deploying battlefield Airmen with ground forces. These Airmen can call in precise, rapid air strikes by providing Global Positioning System coordinates to bombers and fight-

New year brings new missions for Air Force Reserve

by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Gregoire
Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFPN) — This year, citizen Airmen will see some new missions headed their way as they continue their efforts to fight and support the war against terrorism.

Responding to the active-duty needs, reservists will take part in Future Total Force initiatives that will test new organizational constructs to integrate reserve-component and active-duty Airmen in virtually every facet of Air Force operations.

To make the Future Total Force a reality, Air Force officials will conduct a number of test cases to serve as proofs of concept. Initially it involves six initiatives that are designed to improve the nation's combat capability, said Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, commander of Air Force Reserve Command here.

"Three of the initiatives directly affect AFRC and will hopefully lead to less involuntary mobilizations in the future and more opportunities to retain our Air Force's seasoned professionals in the Reserve," he said.

One test initiative will integrate reservists into all mission areas of the Air Warfare Center at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The center is starting new operations that require a new way of doing business. Using full-time reservists, the initiative is expected to alleviate the center's high training loads, high operations tempo, limited surge capability and low experience levels.

The center took its first step into the Future Total Force in December when Lt. Col. John Breeden assumed command of the center's 11th Reconnaissance Squadron. As the commander of a permanent active-duty squadron, he is responsible for Predator unmanned aerial vehicle operations.

Another test initiative will incorporate reserve component Airmen into Predator operations along the southern border. Texas and Arizona Air National Guard units will also take on Predator missions, and the Air Force Reserve will become further involved at stateside locations to be determined in the near future. The low turnover rate of the Guard and Reserve will significantly reduce the Air Force's training costs associated with this mission.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche called the new operations the "crown jewel of tomorrow's Air Force." The third test

initiative will partner the active duty's 388th Fighter Wing with the Reserve's 419th Fighter Wing. Both units fly the F-16 Fighting Falcon and are located at Hill AFB, Utah. The goal is to accommodate peacetime training and wartime operations. Consolidating the F-16 resources will put the reservists into a position to help train the less-experienced active-duty Airmen and increase their operational capability, officials said. For this initiative, planners will use the associate unit structure where both wings have their own commander and separate chains of command.

"For decades we've had Reserve associate unit successes with our mobility units, but we've never done it for the combat world,"

said Col. Gregory Vitalis, of AFRC's plans and programs directorate. "Looking ahead, we will be a smaller, more capable force, and our long-term goal is for the Reserve, Guard and active duty to better integrate their efforts as (a) single entity."

Successes with Reserve associate units, a generally more experienced force than their active-duty counterparts and the ability to provide nearly 20 percent of the Air Force's capability with about 4 percent of the Air Force's budget are just some strengths AFRC brings to Future Total Force, officials said.

"Integrating Reserve and active-duty units makes

sense and is being reviewed for every weapon system and every major command that AFRC is a joint partner in," said Brig. Gen. Martin Mazick, director of AFRC operations directorate. "Future Total Force is just another step to keep us relevant and ready."

As technology and new weapon systems increase the capability of the total force, fewer weapons systems are needed to provide today's level of combat and airlift power. Officials at the headquarters say that what becomes more vital than the hardware is the pool of experienced professionals who train, mentor and provide a surge capability when needed.

This means having the right people at the right place at the right time, said Maj. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., AFRC's plans and programs directorate director.

"If we have to mobilize during a steady state of operations, we know our force is not balanced," General Stenner said. "Future Total Force will help us find that balance. It will help us get into the right missions and keep us relevant to the active-duty Air Force."

Also, officials say the goal of the Future Total Force initiatives is to test new ways to balance the advantages and costs of each component and see how each one most efficiently and effectively fits into tomorrow's training and frontline missions.

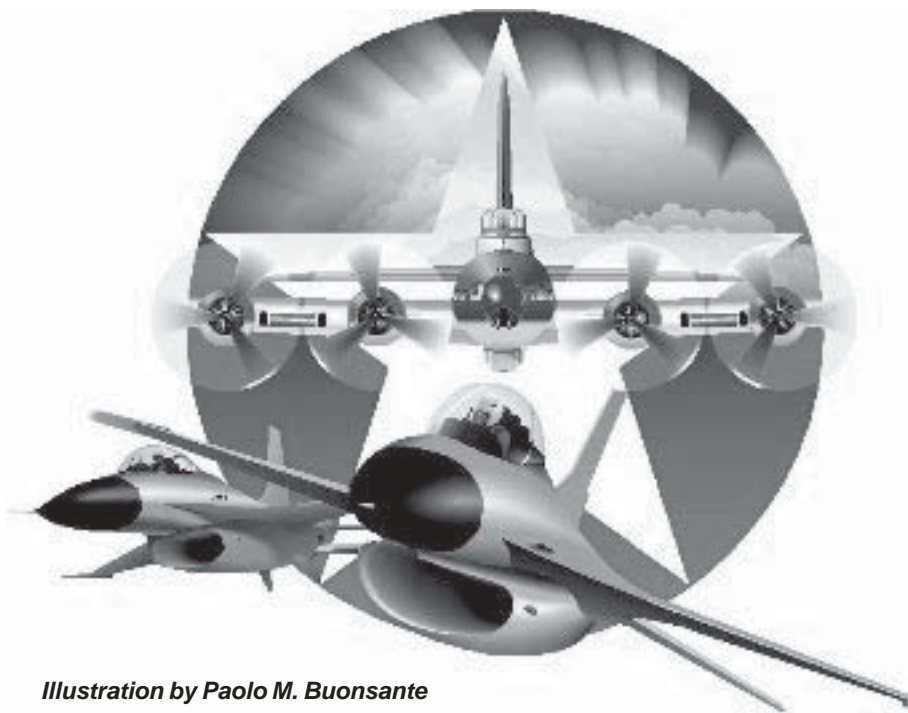


Illustration by Paolo M. Buonsante

Inclement Weather

As a tenant unit, the official 459th Air Refueling Wing policy mirrors the host unit, the 89th Airlift Wing policy. The 459th ARW command post will monitor the 89th commander's determination. Your orderly room will then be notified and in turn, you will be notified through recall procedures. In the event inclement weather looms as a UTA weekend approaches, tune to your local radio or television news stations or call the Andrews Base Line at (301) 981-5995.

Instruction Clarifies Enlisted Roles and Responsibilities

Air Force officials further clarified and standardized the roles, responsibilities and duty titles of its enlisted Airmen with the latest version of Air Force Instruction 36-2618, The Enlisted Force Structure. The instruction serves as the definitive guide for developing an enlisted-force structure that best meets mission requirements while providing a stable career field structure and opportunity for professional growth. Besides general responsibilities, each chapter spells out specific responsibilities for each rank. For more information, go to the story on Air Force Link at <http://www.af.mil/news/>. The instruction is available online at www.e-publishing.af.mil.

Spouse Scholarship for 2005

The 2005 Spouse Scholarship applications will be accepted beginning Jan. 1 through March 31. Information and the application is available on the AEF Web site <http://www.aef.org> or by calling AEF directly at (800) 291-8480. The deadline for applications to be postmarked is March 31, 2005. The recipients will be chosen and the scholarships awarded in early May.

Christmas in April

The 459th Command Chief is soliciting volunteers for "Christmas in April," Saturday, April 30. We have signed up to repair two homes located in Capital Heights Md. The program is designed to help low-income elderly and people with disabilities live in warmth, safety and decency through volunteer renovation and repair of their homes. We are looking for skilled and unskilled volunteers to donate their time to this worthwhile cause. Please sign up with your First Sergeant this UTA. Family members age 15 and older welcome too! This year 100 homes will be repaired in Prince George's County, making it 1,000 homes in all for the program.

Tax Statements Available through MyPay

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service recently compiled a schedule of dates when service members, military retirees and annuitants, and defense civilian employees can access their tax statements through myPay <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. Retirement-related tax statements became available through myPay in December. W2s for military and civilian employees should appear on myPay now. W2s were mailed in January.

Free DANTES and CLEP Exams

The 459th Education & Training Office is offering paper-based CLEP and DANTES testing starting March 2. All 459 ARW military, civilian employees and military spouses are eligible to test. ID is mandatory for military, and a 2nd ID is required for a civilian and spouse. Tests are held every Wednesday at 8 a.m.

Citizen Airman, Employer Award Competition Begins

April 1 is the deadline to nominate reservists and their employers for Air Force Reserve Command's Citizen Airman Award and Employer of the Year Award. The awards recognize both an enlisted person and an officer who deployed in support of current operations in 2004. The employer award honors the person who strongly supported the activation and deployment of one or more Citizen Airmen. Nominees submit a one-page narrative of the reservist's contribution, a one-page narrative of how the employer helped his or her reservist and the Air Force Reserve, and a biography on the reservist or employer. Nominations should be mailed to Chief Master Sgt. Troy McIntosh, 12313 Manchester Way, Woodbridge, VA 22192; faxed to DSN 227-9103 or commercial 703-697-9103; or e-mailed to Troy.McIntosh@pentagon.af.mil to arrive no later than April 1.

Retirement Eligibility Change

The requirement to have the last six years of satisfactory service in the Reserve was repealed by the FY05 National Defense Authorization Act, Section 501. AFRC is working to determine the effective date. The 459th MPF will publish that information as it becomes available.

Your Will

Once your will is witnessed and notarized, do not make pen and ink changes as this may make your will invalid.

If you need to make changes to your will, please consult the 459th ARW legal office or an attorney.

Your point of contact is Maj. Carl Tierny at (240) 857-6873. The legal office is located in Bldg. 3755, Room 220.



Run Date Check Date

February 22	March 1
February 25	March 4
March 1	March 9
March 3	March 11
March 8	March 15
March 10	March 18
March 15	March 23
March 17	March 25
March 21	March 30

Information provided by 459 ARW/FM

2005

Feb. 26-27, Alt 12-13
 March 19-20, Alt 12-13
 April 23-24, Alt 9-10
 *May 14-15, Alt 21-22
 June 25-26, Alt 11-12
 July 30-31, Alt 9-10
 Aug. 27-28, Alt 13-14
 Sep 24-25, Alt 8-9

*This UTA date is a change to the originally published schedule.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Dining Halls

Freedom Hall (Active Duty side)

Breakfast: Weekdays, 5:30 a.m. - 8 a.m.

Lunch: Weekdays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Dinner: Weekdays, 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Carryout: Weekdays: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

UTA Weekends brunch: 6 a.m. - 1 p.m.

UTA Weekends dinner: 2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Liberty Hall (Reserve side)

Breakfast: weekdays, 7 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Lunch: weekdays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

UTA weekends Brunch: 6 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Fraud, Waste & Abuse Hotline

(240) 981-2429

Passport Photos

Passport photos taken UTA Sat., 9:30 a.m. - noon; UTA Sun., 1 - 3 p.m., at Bldg. 3755, Rm. 125, (240) 857-2737.

459 AMDS

****New hours of operation****

Mon., Weds., Thurs: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Tues. & Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Military Pay

Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

UTA Sat., 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Closed UTA Sun.

Office: (240) 857-0314/0315

Easy Pay Access: 1-800-755-7413

Military Personnel Flight

Hours of operation for all MPF offices are Mon.

-Fri. and UTAs: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Customer Service: Rm. 117; 857-3843

*Newcomers: UTA Sat: 7 - 11 a.m.

*AEF and newcomers: UTA Sat: 8 - 11 a.m.

*All other customers: UTA Sat: After 11 a.m.

Career Enhancement: Rm. 118; 857-2853

Education & Training: Rm. 144; 857-9426

Personnel Relocation: Rm. 115; 857-2835

Personnel Employment: Rm. 115; 857-6739

Legal Office

Walk-in Legal Assistance, UTA Sat., 1:30-

3:30 p.m.; Sun. 10-11 a.m., Rm. 220-222,

Bldg. 3755; (240) 857-3855.

Worship Schedule

Protestant:

Sun. 7:30 a.m.- 459 CES (Bldg. 3756)

Sun. 8:30 a.m.- Chapel 2 (Bldg. 3715)

Sun. 11 a.m.- Chapel 1 (Bldg. 1345)

Catholic Mass:

Sat. 5:30 p.m.- Chapel 3 (Bldg. 1679)

Sun. 9:30 a.m.- Chapel 3 (Bldg. 1679)

East Fitness Center now open



East Fitness Center

The East Fitness Center located near the 459th ARW wing headquarters building is now open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. The fitness center closed two years ago after the weight of snow on the roof caused the support trusses in the ceiling to crack as a result of the heavy weight load from a snow-storm.

Due to the hard-work of 89th Civil Engineering folks, it was repaired in four months, however, due to deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, the fitness center lost its manning, resulting in the closure for the past two years. Currently, the fitness center closes at 2 p.m. due to limited manning.

"This has been a long, hard road," said Lt. Col. Linda Thomas, Acting Mission Support Group Commander, 89th Airlift Wing, "but we're very pleased to be opening it due to the great folks at CE." According to Lt. Col. Winona Cason, 459th Mission Support Group Commander, the fitness center may be staffed in the future on UTA weekends to allow for fit to fight testing and a more convenient place to work out on a UTA. Look for an update on that in coming months. (Photos by Master Sgt. Shayne Sewell).



Master Sgt. Melissa Stahl, Superintendent of Andrews' Fitness Centers, Mr. Chuck Rose, Director, Andrews Fitness Centers, Lt. Col. Linda Thomas, 89th AW Acting Mission Support Group Commander, and Lt. Col. Scott Ross, 89th Services Commander, cut a red ribbon to commemorate the reopening of the East Fitness Center, Feb. 4.

**459TH AIR REFUELING WING
AIR FORCE RESERVE
3755 PATRICK AVENUE
ANDREWS AFB MD 20762-4814
OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

First Class Mail
**U.S. POSTAGE
PAID**
Temple Hills MD
Permit No. 4004